

INSTITUUT VIR EIETDSE GESKIEDENIS

Die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat

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He's famous, we're famous — what's all the fuss?

MELANIE GOSLING

STAFF from the American consulate were buzzing around Philippi's Victoria Mxenge housing site in preparation for today's American presidential visit — but the locals regarded it as no big deal.

Said Ms Patricia Matolengwe, who co-ordinates the women's

housing project that has drawn praise worldwide: "We've become used to visits from big people. They're always coming — our ministers, from the German government, America, all over.

"But the Americans are taking it very seriously. For them I think it is so big, but for us it is just a normal visit.

"Hillary was here last year and this year she wants to return to see the improvements we have made. She will also lay bricks in one of the houses.

"She was impressed with the work here and surprised to see women building houses."

Police and lot of men on cell-phones walked around the

windswept streets, and went over the presidential programme with Matolengwe again.

She grinned. "They want to make sure we know the programme, what happens when, and get our marshals organised. Last time for Hillary they just had tape along the roads for the crowds, but this time they have these barri-

ades. It's much more security than for our government."

● Matolengwe, a former domestic worker who spearheaded the housing scheme, was named Western Cape Housing Person of the Year in 1996 and won an award from the United Nations last year in recognition of her work to alleviate poverty.

TREFWOORDE

- 1 VBA
- 2 Clinton B
- 3 Bissaken
- 4 Kaapstad
- 5 Vrow
- 6 Behuisingstema
- 7 Projeke
- 8 Clinton H
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